

1-20-1975

Administrative Notes, January 20th, 1975

University of Texas at Tyler

TYLER STATE COLLEGE

100 E. BERTA


TYLER, TEXAS 75701

January 20, 1975

TELEPHONE 214 595-0711

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To: Board of Regents, Tyler State College

From: James H. Stewart, Jr. 

Subject: Administrative Notes

I. 1000th Student Registers

Another historic milestone was reached on Friday, January 17, 1975 when Dean O. Robert Marsh registered our 1000th student for the 1975 Spring Semester. This, of course, marks the first semester in which we have reached the 1000 mark in registration. The fact that we are developing programs at Tyler State that meet the needs of students in our area, causes us to continue the practice of increasing our enrollment steadily, but at the same time, rather substantially each semester. At 3 p.m. today our total registration was 1030. As I have explained in the past, we often have students to drop before the 12th class day which is the day on which we report our official count to the State. Therefore, all registration figures given until that time are, of course, unofficial. We do not feel, however, that our final count will fall below the 1000 level. The 1030 figure represents an 18 percent increase over the 1974 Fall Semester of 874 students and a 78 percentage increase over our registration of 580 students for the 1974 Spring Semester one year ago.

The wise decision made by the Board of Regents during the fall to acquire additional facilities for institutional use should not go unnoticed at this time. Your attention to making a decision relative to the acquisition of additional space certainly was an important decision which directly affected our ability to enroll more students this semester. This is probably an appropriate time to state again that I feel this problem will be with us for the next few years. It follows then that we need to redouble our efforts to insure acquiring sufficient appropriations to allow us to build the facilities that are definitely going to be needed in order for us to retain our institutional initiative in the direction of adequate program growth and development which will enable us to perform the role and scope with which we have been charged by the people of Texas through the legislature of our State. And I might add that we are rapidly approaching the time when appropriated funds from the State of Texas will be insufficient to meet all the needs of a dynamic institutional program. Consideration will need to be given very soon to the prospects of a more vigorous program of private fund raising and federal support through a professional staff officer.

II. Luncheon on Day of Groundbreaking Ceremony

The Board of Regents and other Groundbreaking program participants will have lunch at Willow Brook Country Club on January 29, 1975. The luncheon will begin at 12 noon in order for us to arrive at the campus site a few minutes in advance of the 2:00 p.m. starting time for the Groundbreaking. Please indicate on the attached card whether or not you and your wife will attend the luncheon and return the card at your earliest convenience.

Our Groundbreaking program is being printed and hopefully a copy can be sent to each of you a few days in advance of the date for this historic occasion in the life of Tyler State.

III. Hearing Before Texas Highway Commission

A hearing before the Texas Highway Commission relative to the improvement of Spur 248 has been set for 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 28, 1975. The Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Tyler and this district of the Texas Highway Department will all be represented at this hearing. District Engineer W. W. Potter is in charge of making the presentation before the Highway Commission regarding this matter.

I will appreciate your indicating on the attached card (mentioned previously) whether or not you can attend the hearing. After receiving the information from each of you pursuant to this matter, I will advise you about transportation and arrangements to and from Austin.

IV. January 14th Austin Trip

Some twenty-five East Texans traveled to Austin on January 14th to be present for the opening of the 64th Legislative Session. Besides being with most of our senators and representatives from East Texas, we were privileged to be invited to a reception given by Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Bill Hobby and to visit for a few minutes with Representative Billy Clayton soon after he was elected Speaker of the House. Senator Peyton McKnight arranged for our group to attend the Lieutenant Governor's reception and Representative Bill Clark scheduled our visit with the Speaker. Some six or seven senators and nine or ten representatives attended our luncheon. Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby also joined us for lunch.

It was a very successful day and the fact that we had an excellent group of East Texans to travel to Austin to support our efforts once again emphasizes the enthusiasm which we have among our East Texas citizenry for the institution. Regents McVicker, McKie, McKenzie and Schleier represented the board on this trip and these

men performed very significant work for the institution while in Austin. The manner in which you, as members of our governing board, work together in such a unified and cooperative manner is one of the fundamental reasons why we have developed a quality institutional program with such rapidity.

V. Appropriations for the Next Biennium

We are obtaining some information about the institutional appropriation request for fiscal years 1976 and 1977 and should have all the data within a few days. The executive budget office is not releasing the Governor's recommendations until he makes his inaugural address tomorrow. As soon as all this information is obtained and we can analyze it, we will make it available to the board.

In discussions with various individuals in Austin, it appears that higher education will have a great deal of work to accomplish this session in order to achieve the necessary appropriations for conducting our program. The regents who were in Austin Tuesday, January 14, heard several individuals from upper division institutions point out these circumstances very dramatically.

Through visits with our senators and representatives from East Texas, as well as other parts of the State, it appears that Tyler States continues to enjoy the confidence of our state officials and that on this basis we can proceed with the hard work of relating genuine and specific institutional requirements to our legislators and other state officials in Austin. From my initial work with the legislature last week, I have the feeling that it is more important than ever before that we specify our needs to our public officials very early in the session. This, of course, is a subjective or intuitive feeling, but I do think it has some merit.

One note of encouragement came from a Coordinating Board meeting in Austin last Friday. The Coordinating Board, in its report to the 64th Legislature regarding higher education in Texas for the next several years, emphasized that "highest priority for funding higher education over the next five years should be given to adequate funding levels for newly established senior and upper level colleges and universities, medical and dental schools, so that they can reach their enrollment and program potential." Although, as indicated, the preceding statement is quoted directly from the comprehensive report given by the Coordinating Board to the legislature, I should mention that I have added the underlining of certain words in order to emphasize our prominence in this very significant recommendation.

A newspaper article from the January 17, 1975 Austin American Statesman, dealing with this and other Coordinating Board meeting matters, is also attached for your information.

VI. Resolution Sent to Governor Dolph Briscoe

Attached for your information is a copy of the resolution passed by the Board of Regents along with my letter of transmittal relative to the reappointment of our three regents whose present terms expire on January 31, 1975.

VII. Report from Resident Engineer

Attached is a report from our Director of Physical Plant and Resident Engineer for the week ending January 17, 1975.

JHS:rc

Attachments